

ABSTRACT

Systems and methods according to the present invention address these needs and others by providing techniques for selecting items from a list that can be operated using, for example, a pointing device or a wheel device. According to exemplary embodiments of the present invention, items are arranged in a list as regions along a three dimensional helical surface. For example, each item can be allocated to a wedge-shaped region along the helical surface. The user can select items by, for example, using a pointing device to pick that item's wedge or by using a wheel device to sequence through the items on the helical surface. Alternatively, a combination of a wheel and pointing device can be used to first scroll the helical surface, and then select an individual item. A clipping plane is used to remove parts of the helical surface from view once the user scrolls past them and reveal the selections in the cycle of the helical surface immediately beneath the clipping plane. Another feature of the helical surface menu is that it can be turned on its side and navigated at a coarse granularity.